

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 FAA-00 L-03 /035 W

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R 061715Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3858

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 3269

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, HO

SUBJ: LEASE, CHARTER, AND INTERCHANGE OF AIRCRAFT IN
 INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

REF: STATE 145424

1. SERVICIO AEREO DE HONDURAS, S.A. (SAHSA) SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH TRANSPORTES AEREOS NACIONALES (TAN) ON MAY 21, 1975 (AND RENEWED ON MAY 21, 1976) TO "RENT" SEATS ON TAN'S BOEING 737 ON THATOPLANE'S TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY FLIGHTS BETWEEN TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS, GUATEMALA CITY AND RETURN. (THE TAN FLIGHT CONTINUES ON TO MFICO CITY BEFORE RETURNING TO TEGUCIGALPA VIA GUATEMALA CITY.) THE SAME CONTRACT ENABLES SAHSA TO "DRY LEASE" A TAN AIRPLANE FOR USE ON THE SAME ROUTE ON DAYS WHEN THE TAN 737 DOES NOT PROVIDE SERVICE TO GUATEMALA CITY. THE CONTRACT IS FOR A ONE-YEACIPERIOD AND IS RENEWABLE. THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT LEASED FOR THIS SERVICE VARIES ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS TO BE TRANSPORTED AS WELL AS THE AVAILABILITY OF A SERVICEABLE AIRPLANE. IN ANY CASE, THE LEASED AIRCRAFT IS REGISTERED IN HONDURAS.

2. TAN "DRY LEASES" A LOCKHEED ELECTRA FROM SAHSA. TAN USES THAT AIRCRAFT (REGISTRATION NUMBER HR-SAV) TO TRANSPORT FREIGHT ON THE HONDURAS-MIAMI-HONDURAS ROUTE. THE LEASE WAS SIGNED ON MARCH 19, 1976 AND WILL BE IN EFFECT FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME.

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3. COMMENT: TAN AND SAHSA ARE OWNED BY THE SAME SHAREHOLDERS.

LOCAL AVIATION SOURCES INFORM THE EMBASSY THAT STEPS ARE NOW
UNDERWAY TO MERGE THE TWO INTO ONE AIRLINE TO BE CALLED "AIR
HONDURAS". HOWEVER, GIVEN THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL COMPLICATIONS
INHERENT IN SUCH A MERGER, AIR HONDURAS IS NOT EXPECTED TO
BECOME A REALITY UNTIL 1978 AT THE EARLIEST. END COMMENT.
SANCHEZ

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